



COUNTY OF PLACER FISH & GAME COMMISSION

Ed King
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner
County Contact

FISH & GAME COMMISSION MEMBERS

DISTRICT 1 Don Gould	DISTRICT 2 Mark Fowler
DISTRICT 3 Gregg McKenzie	DISTRICT 4 Gary Flanagan
DISTRICT 6 Kari Freidig	DISTRICT 7 Marc Wyatt
DISTRICT 5 Mickey Daniels	

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PLACER COUNTY FISH & GAME COMMISSION MINUTES

TIME/DATE: 6:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, August 26, 2015

LOCATION: PLACER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ROOM
Community Development Resource Agency, DeWitt Center, Auburn
3091 County Center Drive (corner of Bell Road and Richardson Drive)

The Placer County Fish & Game Commission is committed to ensuring that persons with disabilities are provided the resources to participate fully in its public meetings. If you are hearing impaired, we have listening devices available. If you require additional disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Recording Secretary at (530) 889-7372. If requested, the agenda shall be provided in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities. All requests must be received at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting for which you are requesting accommodation. Requests received after such time will be accommodated only if time permits.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Marc Wyatt
- II. **ROLL CALL**
Present: Daniels, Gould, McKenzie, Wyatt, Fowler, Flanagan, Freidig
Absent: N/A
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA for August 26, 2015 and APPROVAL OF MINUTES for July 29, 2015**
Agenda: Flanagan/Daniels/MPUV
Minutes: Fowler/Gould/MPUV with McKenzie abstaining due to his absence in July.
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
Individuals may address the Commission on items under the jurisdiction of the Fish & Game Commission not included on this agenda for no longer than five (5) minutes. ***No action can be taken on items addressed under Public Comment***

Josh Huntsinger, Placer County Agricultural Commissioner, announced that the 2015 Placer Land Trust Conservator of the Year is Commissioner Mark Fowler, and that he would receive the award at a fundraiser dinner to be held at the Blue Goose Event Center on October 22, 2015, from 6-9 PM.

Larry Gonzi stated that the Golden Gate Salmon Association supported changes to the Hemphill Dam to improve fish passage.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT – Ed King

No expenditures were recorded through July 31. The FY 15/16 budget includes \$2,100 in commissioner fees, \$1,000 for secretary services and \$2,000 in mileage reimbursement. \$5,000 was budgeted for grant awards in anticipation of receiving an equal amount in fine and penalty revenue in FY 14/15. The total FY 15/16 expenditure budget is \$10,370.

The only revenue recorded in July was an interest payment of \$11.62. No fine or penalty revenue was deposited into the Fish & Game Fund. The FY 15/16 revenue budget is \$9,200 including \$3,000 in fines, \$2,000 in penalty assessments, \$200 in interest and a \$4,000 contribution from the General Fund.

Fish and Game Fund reserves total \$9,000 and are comprised of past General Fund support, accrued interest, and FY 13/14 and FY 14/15 fine and penalty revenues of \$3,300.

VI. AGENCY REPORTS

A. Commission Updates

1. State Wildlife Conservation Board Subcommittee – Gregg McKenzie
September 3 is the next meeting; as Placer County has nothing on the agenda, McKenzie might not attend.

2. State Fish & Game Commission Subcommittee – Mark Fowler
Fowler mentioned the wolf pack seen in Siskiyou County. Fowler reported nature area closures due to fires, although none were nearby. The State Commission voted to ban bobcat trapping statewide. Proposition 1 watershed restoration grant applications are being accepted, due by September 16. New reports of turkey vultures poisoned by phenobarbital, having eaten pets that were put down and not properly disposed of. Waterfowl bag limits have been set for the 15/16 season. Thirty cadets graduated from the wildlife officer academy. Academy applications are due October 16th for the new class which starts in January. CDFW proposes to change Fish & Game Code sections 3503 and 3503.5 to address bird nests and eggs. The SHARE Access permit program will be available for wild pig, waterfowl, and upland game hunting, plus birdwatching in Solano and Yolo counties; applications are now available.

B. California Department of Fish & Wildlife - Lt. John Lawson

Lawson introduced the new Lincoln area warden, Erica, who replaces Adam Kraft. Deer season for archery is open and has been slow as usual. Bear issues are increasing as they seek food; natural forage is reduced by the drought.

Lawson's team is short-staffed due to transfers, vacation, and injury, but is receiving a new academy graduate in the Sierra district. Dove season starts September 1; Lawson reiterated the ban on lead ammunition and warned that they will enforce it.

Lawson updated the Commission on the dedicated boat for Lake Tahoe; they have an MOU with the Coast Guard to store it at their facility.

Lawson advised that there are no bag limits or seasons for the Eurasian Collared Dove, which is considered a pest.

C. Nevada Irrigation District & Placer County Water Agency Reports

AUGUST 2015 PCWA Report – Ben Ransom

French Meadows is at 5,183' (47,405 ac-ft of storage), McGuire Boat Ramp area on north shore is closed to boat launching, French Meadows ramp area remains open.

Hell Hole is at 4,481' (69,820 ac-ft of storage), we've heard the ramp area may be too soft to launch trailered boats.

Whitewater boating releases downstream of Oxbow Powerhouse will be made Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Labor Day weekend and Saturdays in September (after Labor Day)

Folsom Reservoir is currently at 371' (218,000 ac-ft of storage) and is projected to be at 358' (165,000 ac-ft) end of September

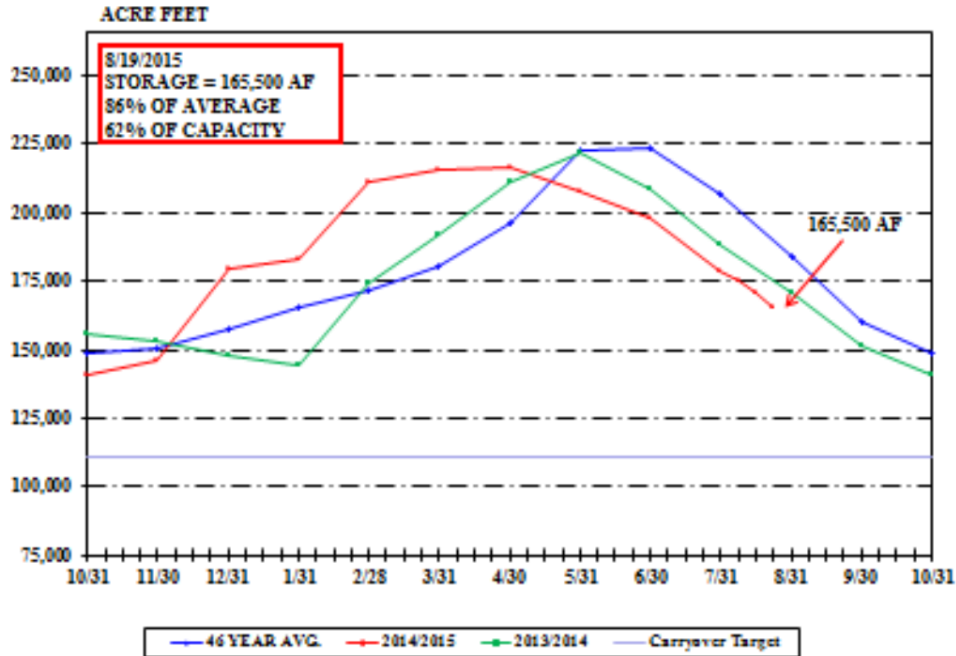
Estimated campground closure dates (determined by USFS):

- Hell Hole – October 19
- Middle Meadows – October 13
- Big Meadows – Remains closed due to King Fire remediation
- French Meadows – October 13; one loop may remain open without water service
- Lewis - September 13
- Group sites @ French Meadows – September 13

AUGUST NID Report – Sue Sindt

- Storage as of August 19th = 165,500 AF; 86% of average.
- Continue to see about a 35% reduction in treated water usage. Due to conservation efforts, the end of season carryover storage should exceed the 110,000 AF target established at the beginning of the season.

NID RESERVOIR STORAGE



NON-ACTION ITEMS

- VII.** Freidig inquired about an update on the bear video that Placer County planned to create. Josh Huntsinger reported that it was still in internal discussions. Placer County is planning a cost-share program for bear bins, and information will be included in the video.

ACTION ITEMS

VIII. Auburn Ravine Fish Passage – Current Status of Hemphill Dam and Potential Long-Term Solutions to Improving Fish Passage

McKenzie, who is an employee of PG&E, recused himself from this portion of the meeting to avoid any perception of conflict of interest.

- A.** Remleh Scherzinger, General Manager, Nevada Irrigation District
NID has hired engineering firm Kleinschmidt to perform an operational options analysis to move forward on Hemphill, the results of which are expected in December. NID has ended negotiations with the Foothills Water Network and other protestors, and all parties agreed to let the State Water Resources Control Board take over negotiations. Scherzinger stated that NID felt that discussions with regulatory agencies are going well. He stated that NID has hired a grant coordinator, who is currently working on proposal packages to help fund the preliminary studies. Grant applications for Proposition 1 funding are due soon and NID is trying to submit one.

Gould asked Scherzinger for clarification on how water rights were established, and Flanagan confirmed with Scherzinger that the Foothills Water Network lawsuit will delay progress on any Hemphill Dam resolution.

Many attendees spoke, including Ron Otto, a Placer County resident; Larry Gonzi, a member of Golden State Salmon Association; Steve Hubbard, Save Auburn Ravine Salmon and Steelhead (SARSAS); Tyler Gorey, United Auburn Indian Community member; Robert Cobb, SARSAS Project Manager; and Robert Hane, SARSAS Member. Attendees voiced frustration with NID over its perceived stalling of attempts to fix Hemphill Dam to allow greater fish passage. Many attendees feel that regulatory agencies involved in the process aren't enforcing their own rules and are allowing NID to delay action. Scherzinger stated that progress has been made in the past, such as installing bumpers, and that NID tried to apply for a permit, which was denied. Attendees didn't understand the association with the Foothills Water Network lawsuit and progress on fish passage at Hemphill Dam. Scherzinger stated that the action NID can take depends on the resolution agreed upon with the Foothills Water Network, but reiterated that NID is interested in making fish passage happen as well.

B. Tina Bartlett, Regional Manager, California Department of Fish & Wildlife Bartlett, referring to Mitch Lockhart's presentation in July to the Commission, explained CDFW's policies, and that the fall run Chinook salmon in Auburn Ravine don't meet the criteria for a fish rescue and salvage or for recovery efforts. CDFW believes that handling and moving the fish would cause more harm than good. Bartlett stated that because the situation doesn't fit the requirements for a fish rescue, CDFW does not have the authority to act as oversight agency for any attempt to move the fish upstream of Hemphill Dam, even if it were to be proposed as a genetics study. Bartlett stated that juvenile passage and entrainment should be addressed first before any adult fish passage proposals. Bartlett encouraged pursuit of Proposition 1 funding for Hemphill dam since California has listed it as a priority for anadromous fish passage remediation.

Flanagan asked if NID had provided the timeline that CDFW had requested in their letter, and Bartlett said no, but that Scherzinger had answered that tonight in part with the expected completion of the engineering survey in December. Flanagan also stated that he understood that CDFW was unable to participate in any fish transfer because of lack of manpower and money; that was what SARSAS understood, and that was why they've been working toward getting enough people and resources together to make it happen. Bartlett replied that that was only part of the story, and that fall run Chinook are not listed as endangered. Bartlett said that her director has stated that their priorities are for listed species, which is where they're focusing their resources.

Gorey asked whether Bartlett's boss, NOAA, UAIC, or NMFS decide to oversee the project. Bartlett replied her director could make that decision, but doubted

that he would based on what she's already said, and that she couldn't speak for other agencies.

Jonathan Schram, National Marine Fisheries Service, stated that his agency supported Bartlett's position. Flanagan asked whether it was true that NMFS didn't consider Chinook salmon endangered; Schram clarified that winter Chinook are listed, but fall run are not.

Brad Cavallo, President of Cramer Fish Sciences, stated that he disagreed with Bartlett, that fish experience about the same amount of stress from trap and carry as being handled at fisheries, and stated the fish transfer could be authorized as part of a fish move experiment.

Bartlett stated that CDFW is interested in dealing with this problem, but encouraged collaboration toward a long-term solution.

Flanagan asked what was being done to address NID's violation. Bartlett replied that it was up to the District Attorney's office. Bartlett stated that their main priority right now is dealing with suction dredge miners.

C. Save Auburn Ravine Salmon & Steelhead, Jim Haufler & Steve Hubbard
After a statement from Steve Hubbard, Jim Haufler presented a slide with a request that NID make their plans definite and public, produce a timeline for completion of work on Hemphill Dam, and post their progress online.

D. Commission action: Consider possible recommendation to the Board of Supervisors in support of actions to improve fish passage at Hemphill Dam. The Commission agreed to send a letter advising the Board of Supervisors to request that NID provide a timeline for plans and monthly updates on their progress rectifying fish passage issues at Hemphill Dam. Fowler/Gould/MPUV, except McKenzie who was not present.

Katina Bird spoke about Placer Sportsmen, thanked the Commission for its past support, and stated that she understood that funds were short this year and hoped that would change in the future.

IX. Consideration by the Commission to send a letter to past recipients of the grant program explaining why the program has been temporarily suspended this year
Gould/Freidig/MPUV

X. Next meeting and future agenda items
Wednesday, September 23, 2015, at 6:00 PM

McKenzie suggested for a future agenda item, a topic he had on his list from when he was chair; the Stewardship Council could present on transferral of

properties into third-party hands for conservation. McKenzie also stated that Bass Pro Shops can present to the Commission some time after their new store in Rocklin opens; they sponsor community conservation programs. Senator Nielsen's office had contacted McKenzie about marijuana eradication, and consequences to the environment and law enforcement.

Fowler reported that he will be absent for the September meeting, but that a good topic might be to work on getting approval for a Hemphill Dam fish transfer from the CDFW director.

Flanagan suggested that Freidig contact Ben Ransom at PCWA to present on FERC relicensing.

XI. Adjournment
8:40 PM